

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 were originally presented in the subject application. Claims 2, 12 and 23 are canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 1, 11, 21 and 22 have hereinabove been amended and 32-50 added, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Therefore, claims 1, 2-11, 13-22 and 24-50 remain in this case.

The addition of new matter has been scrupulously avoided.

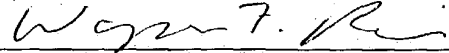
Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment and substantive examination of the application.

Exclusion of Commonly Owned or Assigned Prior Art Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c)

Applicants hereby declare that Banda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,690), cited in the parent case, and the present application were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to International Business Machines Corporation.

CONCLUSION

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.



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